Schedule for setting up of Prasar Bharati

*66. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a schedule had been drawn up to set up the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) by March 31, 1991; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stick to the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) It is considered imperative to consult all shades of public opinion, before formally notifying the date for creation of Prasar Bharati, to ensure that its establishment is in conformity with national interest in the context of the present developments in the country.

Package for J&K

*67. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a package of economic measures to restore confidence amongst the people of Kashmir so as to prepare a ground for restoration of a democratic Government for the State;

(b) if so, the details of the package, indicating the details of the investment to be made, the number of job opportunities to be generated, the number, nature and capacity of industries to be set up and the agricultural activity to be undertaken; and

(c) the progress so far made in the implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) To alleviate the sufferings of the people due to present disturbed conditions in the State certain measures have been taken to assist the persons engaged in the traditional economic activities in the Valley. A Statement containing the main features is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The main occupation involving about half of the working force in the State is Agriculture. With a view to sustaining some of the traditional activities, marketing of apples and other fruits/produce were organised by the government and figures indicate that the sale outside the State was higher being 181,459 M.T. between July to November, 1990 as against the sale of only 162450 M.T. during the corresponding period of the previous year. These sale ensured reasonable returns to the producers.

Similarly, to assist and sustain the artisans producing traditional handicrafts who had been selling them in the Valley as distinct from regular sale outlets through private traders, the State Handicrafts Corporation purchased handicrafts/goods worth Rs. 6 crores. 'Crafts-Mela have been organised. One is going on in Delhi and will take place in 9 other metropolitan cities. It is estimated that so far handicrafts worth Rs. 5 crores have been sold.

Efforts are in hand to enlarge employment opportunities For this purpose, 2,500 persons are being recruited from the state for employment in BSF. Other employment generation opportunities are coming through construction activities, afforestation programmes, etc.